

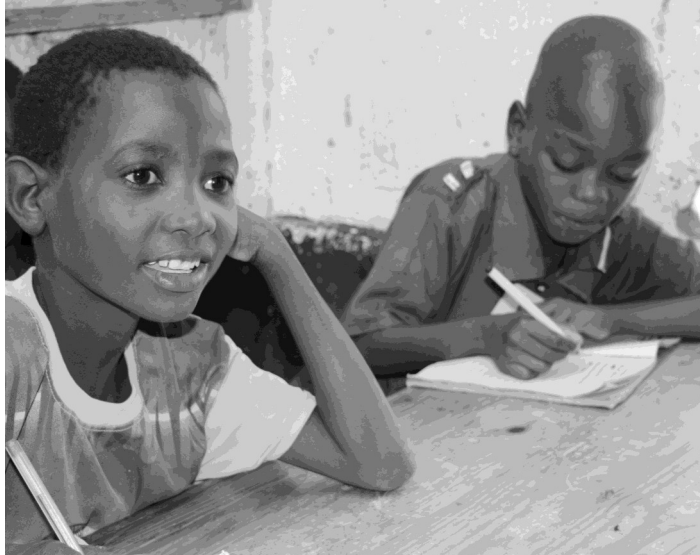
Coming together to promote reading

Parents, PTAs, SMCs and school communities have the power to help children read. They should come together to take action to create a culture of reading. Some ways to do this:

- Assist teachers to make displays which will turn the school into a print-rich environment.
- Support teachers to make learning materials or to help mend or cover books.
- Meet regularly to monitor the performance of children in the school and to plan actions for improvement.
- Establish reading clubs and school libraries to help children learn to read and write.
- Organise open days and literacy fairs where early grade learners showcase what they have learnt.
- During school time, parents can assist the teachers as story tellers and writers.

Malawi Teacher Professional Development Support

MTPDS is a 3-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST). MTPDS aims to improving the literacy skills of all Malawian children in the early grades through targeted teacher professional development activities.



Your Children Need Your Support

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Support Your Child in Learning to Read



Malawi Teacher Professional
Development Support
Kuthandiza Kutukula Aphunzitsi



Improving Early Grade Literacy is a National Priority

Across Malawi many children attend school for years without learning to read properly. The Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) conducted nationwide in 2010 showed that the majority of children in lower primary are unable to read a single word. This must change if the country and its young people are to prosper in the future. This brochure describes how parents and community members can work together with teachers to address this crisis.



The importance of learning to read early

Reading is the most important skill that your child will ever learn at school. Success in all subjects depends on it, and the earlier a child learns to read the better. Literate children are much more likely to succeed in later life and make a positive contribution to their family and community. An illiterate child on the other hand can gain little from schooling and is much more likely to drop out.

Helping your child to succeed at school

As parents, it is your responsibility to support your child with their education:

- Ensure that all children of school-age attend school every day and arrive on time.
- Ensure that your child eats before going to school.
- Take an interest in your child's work and talk to them about what they have learnt at school.
- Ensure that they do their homework and that they have a quiet place and the time to do it.
- Show that you value your child's achievements.
- Take an interest in your child's school report card – it tells you how they are doing in school – and discuss it with your child and his or her teachers.
- To the extent possible, ensure that your child has the teaching and learning materials that they need.
- Help your child to take care of textbooks, for example by covering them and mending torn pages

Helping your child at home in learning to read

Here are some tips on assisting your child with reading at home:

- Read together with your child every day. When reading together:
 - ◇ Ask them to name letters
 - ◇ Help them to learn the sound that each letter makes
 - ◇ If they have difficulties reading a word, sound it out together, one letter at a time
 - ◇ Ask about the meaning of the words and sentences that you read
 - ◇ Praise the progress that your child makes

- Ask older children to assist younger ones. When they do this, they are also learning.
- Have books, newspapers and any reading material available in the home. Encourage your child to read for pleasure and ask them questions about what they have read.
- In Standard. 1 help your child to learn to read and write their own name. Put this on a card at the beginning of term 1, which the child can wear to school.

